

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2. In particular, the Examiner has stated that clarification of two phrases in claim 1 is needed.

First, the Examiner has stated that line 4 of claim 1 is unclear because the language claims wear faces having three different wear portions. In light of the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the disks each comprise of "a disk with at least one wear face having one of three different wear portions." This language corresponds to the language cited by the Examiner from page 4 of the Appeal Brief. Thus, this claim amendment should address any remaining concern the Examiner may have on this issue.

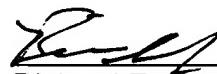
Second, the Examiner has stated that lines 4-6 of claim 1 are unclear where the language claims "disks of a first thickness have an initial wear portion on each wear face, disks of a second thickness have two thirds of said initial wear portion on each wear face of said first thickness disks." In light of the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "whereby disks of a first thickness have an initial available wear portion on each wear face, disks of a second thickness have an initial available wear portion that is two thirds of said initial available wear portion on each wear face of said first thickness disks, and disks of a third thickness have an initial available wear portion that is one third of the initial available wear portion on each wear face of said first thickness disks." This language corresponds to the language cited by the Examiner from claim 11. Thus, this claim amendment should address any remaining concern the Examiner may have on this issue.

Conclusion

Claims 11 and 13-16 stand allowed. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's remaining rejections concerning the form of the claims. Applicants believe that this amendment now places all claims in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes further discussion would be helpful, the Examiner may reach Applicants' attorney, Richard E. Stanley, Jr., at 312-321-4279.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration of the application and an allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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